BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 14 | Humidity 32% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 60,672 | Nifty 17,826 | Gold 56,160 | Silver 65,784 | Dollar 82.79 | Euro 88.21 | GBP 100.18

WASTE IDEA
Better leachate than never

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NEVERLAND
Too little, too lake

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Why tackling pollution is no easy task: At KSPCB, 50% of scientific & 60% of administrative posts lay vacant

THE GREENWASH

Of 682 sanctioned posts, only 297 are occupied

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) is reeling under a severe human resource crunch with more than 50% of its scientific and technical posts lying vacant. Over 60% of administrative posts are not filled as well.

As per the performance audit report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), while KSPCB has 682 sanctioned posts, only 297 posts are occupied.

The audit report prepared in compliance with the orders of 2019 by the National Green Tribunal clearly states that the state pollution watchdog is under acute shortage of regular human resources in relation to the number of consented industries, local bodies, and other related functions of the board.

While the total number of sanctioned posts for scientific and technical roles is 411, as many as 216 posts are lying vacant and while the total number of sanctioned administrative posts is 271, 169 posts have not been filled. The board depends on temporary project staff for the majority of its workload.

Experts said the board is facing a great challenge owing to manpower shortage and this is apparent

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"A shortage of more than 50% of staff highlights KSPCB's callousness and lack of seriousness towards tackling pollution in the city and state

– V Ramprasad, SWM expert

Saplings uprooted

100 saplings near Hosakerehalli damaged by civic body to carry out developmental works

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Hasiru Ratha collective is actively involved in planting new saplings and maintaining them in south Bengaluru. In the last two years, the group planted 100-odd saplings near Hosakerehalli and hoped to see the plants grow. But their hopes were shattered — the saplings were damaged by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) 'to carry out developmental works'.

Back in 2020, residents of an apartment complex came forward to plant trees across the stretch near Hosakerehalli. Volunteers from Hasiru Ratha organised the plantation. They planted around 50 saplings in the month of June followed by 50 more in the year 2022 during the month of July. The plants were dedicated to martyrs and named after them.

The group purchased tree guards to protect the saplings and spent between Rs 800-1,000 for a tree guard. However, according to the residents, just a few days ago, the BBMP carried out works - building a retaining wall - for the Vrishabhavathi valley and damaged over 50 of the saplings in the layout.

The residents were shocked to see that over 50 plants were damaged and all the tree guards were missing.

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 An electrifying performance

India's biggest multi-genre music and lifestyle festival is all set to flare its musical wave after 3 years. With a vast range of pop culture-defining experiences and performances, adding to the excitement, especially for the folks in Bengaluru is UK's breakthrough pop-star and Psycho-hitmaker Anne-Marie and Nigerian singer and Love Nwantiti fame Chukwuka Ekweani aka CKay's electrifying performances at India's electronic city at Vh1 Supersonic Mainstage Bengaluru. Both Anne-Marie and CKay are performing in India for the very first time, so don't miss out!
Where: Bhartiya City, Kannuru; When: February 24, 4pm onwards; Tickets: gosupersonic.in

02 For Hemingway fans

Catch 'Old man and the sea', a play based on Ernest Hemingway's novella. This is the story of an epic struggle between an old, seasoned fisherman and the greatest catch of his life. For 84 days he has returned home empty-handed. On the 85th day, he sets out far beyond into the sea and drops his lines. For five days, the old man struggles with the fish, sharks, and the sea, to survive and get back home. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: Feb 26, 11am, 3 30 pm Tickets: bookmyshow.com**

03 Travel on your mind?

A three-day tourism, travel & hospitality conclave TTF Bengaluru is being held at Tripuravasini of Palace Ground from February 17 to 19. Tourism Minister Anand Singh will inaugurate this conclave. With 120+ travel suppliers from Nepal, the UK, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and many more destinations showcasing the best of travel deals and packages, TTF Bengaluru is expected to boost the summer tourism prospects.
Where: Tripuravasini of Palace Ground
When: Till February 23

Common varsity test? Students remain iffy

... Admission on basis of CUET scores is a good idea, say some; others say it can be more stressful

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The University Grants Commission (UGC), recently released a notification urging all universities including state universities, private universities, and other higher education institutes (HEIs) to conduct undergraduate admissions through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores.

The commission says that this initiative will save the students from appearing in multiple entrance examinations conducted on different dates, sometimes coinciding with each other, and will also help students to provide equal opportunity from different boards to appear for the CUET examination and get admission in any of the undergraduate courses across the country.

Students in Bengaluru have mixed reactions to the idea. While some feel that the move, in fact, would make the admission process easier and save them from multiple admission fees for admissions in different universities, others feel that it might limit their opportunities if carried out.

"It will definitely be more convenient than preparing for multiple separate entrance tests. Most private universities still conduct their own tests in Karnataka and across the country so even after CUET, the students end up appearing for many such exams in a gap of one or two months maximum... Some of the private universities have high registration fees as well," said Sumedha, a student of Class 12th in Bengaluru.

Recently, there has been a backlash from the students regarding the NEET-UG examination as well where they demanded the medical entrance examination be reverted to being conducted by respective states and institutions in place of one common examination for all medical colleges.

"It would limit our opportunities. With just one examination, it puts more pressure on the students. If I am unable to perform well in the CUET, I would still have a few options left... If there is just one examination, there would be no other option than repeating a year if they want to get into a college of their choice for some the students," Krithi K, another student told Bangalore Mirror.

"With just one exam, it would limit our opportunities and put more pressure on the students – Krithi K, a student

Bangalore Mirror
Curriculum framework that's student-friendly & flexible

Bangalore Mirror
Learning through community engagement

Bangalore Mirror has been constantly tracking the various policies and changes being implemented for students by the University Grants Commission

However, the state universities are yet to accommodate the CUET scores in their admission process anytime soon.

"Due to the corona period, many universities and colleges have lagged behind in their academic year and schedule. Even though there was a common academic calendar released by the state government for higher education institutes last year, there is still a disparity between institutes, especially compared to other states and central universities... That is why this academic year we could not start with admission based on CUET scores," explained Lingaraj Gandhi, the Vice-chancellor of Bangalore City University (BCU). The CUET examination, this year, will be conducted between May 21 and May 31, 2023, in 13 languages across the country. The registration window will be open for the students till March 12.

Calling all horticulture enthusiasts

National Horticulture Fair to be organised in Bengaluru for 4 days

Travellers between Mysuru and Kodagu take a break at a field of marigold near Hunsur town

The fair will discuss latest technologies and solutions for cultivation of various crops

The Indian Institute for Horticulture Research will be organising a National Horticultural Fair from Wednesday. The fair will be inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar.

Under the theme of "Innovative Horticulture for Self-Reliance", the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (ICAR-IIHR) will showcase or demonstrate latest technologies such as vegetable, flower and medicinal crop varieties. These technologies can be used for import substitution, pollination in protected cultivation, leaf curl virus resistant chilli varieties, carotenoid content rich marigold varieties, flower waste utilisation, terrace gardening solutions for urban horticulture, production technologies for exotic fruits such as dragon fruit and avocado and cost-effective traps for management of invasive pests, etc.

The fair will benefit horticulturists and other stakeholders during the National Horticulture Fair 2023 (NHF2023) at ICAR-IIHR, Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru, from February 22-25. **— BMB**

Sex worker & gang arrested for kidnap, extortion

A sex worker and two young men were kidnapped by a gang of extortionists near Devarachikkanahalli Road. The incident came to light on Tuesday. A case has been registered at Begur police station in this regard. The two victims have been identified as Manjunath and Rajinikanth. According to the police, the accused who have been arrested have been identified as Tirumalesh, Naveen, Mukesh, Manjunath Bharat, Dhalfir Saud alias Deepu, and Priya.

On February 17, cab driver Manjunath and his friend Rajinikanth called a sex worker near Kengeri and took her to a hotel. Later, she was asked to be dropped off at the said place, and while the youths were taking her in the car, the sex worker had informed her accomplices beforehand and planned to kidnap the youths. Accordingly, the hotel location was shared and the kidnapping was also done. However, the driver Manjunath jumped from the car and escaped and complained to the police. Later, the police managed to arrest the extortionists who had kidnapped the young man and the sex worker in the car.

When a complaint was filed in Begur police station about the kidnapping of a sex worker and Rajinikanth along with a car, the police managed to trace and arrest the accused. The sex worker turned out to also be a member of a gang of extortionists. The accused also demanded Rs 5 lakh from Manjunath to release his friend.

—BMB

'Will take action if NLSIU won't give quota'

Karnataka Law Minister JC Madhu Swamy said on Tuesday that if the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bengaluru refuses to provide 25 per cent reservation for Kannadiga students, the BJP government in the state would initiate action against it. "If the university fails to provide reservation lawfully, we will not hesitate to take action," he reiterated on the floor of the Assembly on Tuesday.

BJP MLA S Suresh Kumar had raised the question in this regard. "The stand of the state is very clear on this issue. We are committed to providing reservation to our children," Madhu Swamy said.

"The matter is coming up before the Supreme Court on February 24 and we are hopeful that we will get justice. The Supreme Court has also expressed the same feelings that we have. NLSIU was questioned as to why reservation is not given in Karnataka when it has been provided in other states," he said. **IANS**

Bright waste idea: Better leachate than never

In bid to address leakage from waste processing plants, BBMP plans to set up leachate processing plants

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Following the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) directions, BBMP plans to set up leachate processing plants alongside Municipal Solid Waste Plants (MSW) in a bid to address leachate leakage at the waste processing plants.

BBMP's plans for waste processing plants have continuously failed due to opposition from citizens who do not want stink from the plants and pollution of groundwater and nearby lake ecosystems. A leachate processing plant setup alongside the MSW could reduce groundwater pollution.

The Palike has floated a tender for setting up a 20 KLD leachate processing plant next to MSW plants as per NGT directions. The project is expected to cost Palike estimated Rs 10 crore and to be completed within six months.

Senior BSWML officials told BM, "We are planning to establish a leachate processing plant at Chikkanagamangala MSW plant as per NGT directions. We are also supposed to establish more such leachate processing plants. However, the project will depend on fund allocation."

As per the NGT report, leachate was being leaked into the stormwater drain connecting to a small pond near the plant. The MSW plant was instructed to complete the in-house leachate treatment plant within six months. The plant was also instructed to maintain logbooks of leachate generated and disposed of. In 2022, the MSW plant generated 1,31,33,440 litres of leachate and an estimated 36 KL per day.

Residents complain while the leachate treatment plants would address groundwater pollution but other measures are needed to address odour. "A leachate treatment plant will not address the odour issue around these plants. Odour is mainly caused by the anaerobic composition of the waste and is not done scientifically. At 2 am-3 am, the plant releases odour to up to a five-km radius creating a suffocating situation for residents. This causes respiratory issues and causes vomiting sensation in some people," said Pranay Dubey, a resident.

> **If any leachate is found in the ground, the company responsible for running the plant should be held responsible. Data regarding the monitoring should be uploaded in the public**

Solid waste management experts are of the view that leachate treatment plants must be appreciated. SWM expert Ram Prasad told BM, "The leachate treatment plant must meet the standards. The treatment plant should be fool-proof enough to prove that the water being treated is monitored by the latest and real-time system. If any leachate is found in the ground, the company responsible for running the plant should be held responsible. Data regarding the monitoring should be uploaded in the public domain to gain the trust of the people."

He further added the leachate generated needs to be minimised by setting up more mini-transfer stations. Transfer of waste in mini transfer stations could reduce the quantity of leachate during the rainy season collected in landfills.

Noting the failure of MSW plants, Prasad added, "Payment made to the company placed in charge of leachate treatment plants should be made on a performance basis. As much as 25 per cent of the payment should be made to the company only after running the plant for three years successfully."

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ATM

Too little, too lake

While Gangashetty Lake is finally being revived after years of being used for dumping waste, locals still have issues with encroachment on land around it

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Rejuvenation of the lake is currently ongoing and is expected to be completed by end of March; Residents allege that elected representatives have turned a blind eye to construction work in the buffer zone

The much-delayed rejuvenation of Gangashetty Lake is expected to be completed by the end of March. For years the lake had been in the limelight for all the wrong reasons. Dewatering of the water body finally began in December 2022 after an 11-month-delay.

"I am happy to see the progress of rejuvenation. It was delayed for quite a long time. I am of the opinion that the lake department engineers have not taken measures to increase the depth of the lake," said Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist.

Gangashetty Lake has been one of the most neglected water bodies in East Bengaluru. Although situated just opposite the Bengaluru East Tahsildar's Office, the lake was being used to dump all sorts of waste, including dust collected by mechanical sweeping machines.

Residents, especially lake activists, have been demanding that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department and the revenue department clear encroachments on the surroundings of the lake, but no effort was made to clear or relocate the slum.

"Elected representatives have turned a blind eye to the encroachment of the lake land because of vote bank politics. Neither the authorities concerned nor the elected representatives objected to the construction of structures in the buffer zone of the water body. I am not happy with the survey conducted by the revenue authorities and the apathy of the BBMP Lakes Department towards illegal construction of buildings and encroachment," said All Karnataka Farmers and Vendors Federation president Yele Srinivas.

A resident of the area questioned the morality of elected representatives for not objecting to the ongoing construction of buildings in the buffer zone.

> **"Revenue authorities are demolishing structures put up by middle-class people, ignoring construction by influential people**
> – Resident of the area

"I think the builder or the 'owner' of such a property has a lot of clout among politicians. Revenue authorities are demolishing structures put up by middle-class people and not acting tough against buildings constructed by rich and influential people."

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant executive engineer (Lakes) Bhuprada said that the rejuvenation of the lake has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore.

"Dewatering of the lake was delayed by four to six months due to heavy rain last year. Dewatering and desilting of the lake is completed. All the pending work is expected to be completed by the end of next month."

Bangalore Mirror had previously reported on how the lake was neglected but can play an important role in improving the groundwater table in the vicinity if rejuvenated.

Bangalore Mirror
Delayed development work begins with dewatering at neglected, misused and encroached waterbody after 11-month deadline
LATER, AT THE LAKE
Gangashetty Lake at KR Puram spread over 21 acres

BM's report on December 24, 2022 spoke about work on the lake moving at a snail's pace

City set to get 'Health Commissioner'

Until now, Commissioner for Health and Family Welfare has been executing this role

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After constituting a Special Commissioner's post to exclusively manage traffic in the city, Bengaluru is now set to get an exclusive Health Commissioner. So far, the Commissioner for Health and Family Welfare has been the executing head of the entire state.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has a Special Commissioner working under the Chief Commissioner, overseeing healthcare. However, this post comes with other administrative tasks as the Special commissioner is also Commissioner for the respective BBMP zone (Currently, KV Thrilok Chandra is the Special Commissioner for Health and IT as well as Zonal Commissioner for Mahadevapura zone).

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "For this purpose, BBMP is tying up with the Health Department for implementing a new health system for the city."

According to the proposal, a senior IAS official who is either Principal Secretary or a higher rank will be appointed as an exclusive Health Commissioner for Bengaluru. Their role is quite crucial as they will be coordinating with the BBMP's health wing, officials from the Department of Health and Family Welfare, and the medical education department. Coordination is very important as the hospitals under the medical education department are autonomous and financially self-sufficient. If the Health Commissioner is on the board of these medical colleges, coordination and execution will be better, added Giri.

BBMP budget coming soon

The BBMP budget is likely to be sent for approval of the Administrator in the first week of March. "As of now, we are fine tuning the budget document. Once we get an approval from the administrator, we will upload the budget details on our website for public viewing. Following the feedback, we will finalise the document. A majority of suggestions for the budget include fixing streetlights, footpaths, segregation of waste, and roads. We have also decided to prioritise health and education," Nath informed.

Meanwhile, it can be recalled that during a pre-budget survey across the city, footpaths, roads, and drains constituted an overwhelming 67 per cent of inputs. Among the top five sub-categories, 17 per cent of the respondents said that the civic agency should prioritise repairing broken footpaths, 16 per cent were for filling up potholes, 13 per cent, desilting roadside drains, 11 per cent, repairing existing streetlights, and 7 per cent, providing side drains and rainwater harvesting pits.

Proposal to revise B-Khata scheme

The agency has sent a proposal to the Urban Development Department to revise the B-Khata scheme. Nath said that, currently, there is a double penalty proposal for those who have B-khata in BBMP limits. There is no penalty in the non-BBMP areas where a separate register is maintained. They have proposed to have a similar plan in BBMP limits as well.

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Dirty drain

Nagawara

The stormwater drain behind Karle Zenith building on Kempapura main road, Nagawara is full of dirt and sewage.

Claim this car?

Haines Road

This car is lying abandoned on Haines Road, Frazer Town. Authorities have not removed it.

Incomplete work

Singasandra

Except for one road in Singasandra,1st Cross Iyengar Layout, the other stretches have not been asphalted.

Petrol pumps to help rake in the moolah

BMTC, KSRTC plan to set up petrol pumps on their depots to bring in more revenue

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KSRTC has already identified 46 such locations and officials say they expect to generate a good amount of revenue from them

Cash-strapped state road transport corporations (RTCs) have decided to look into a non-fare revenue model and two such corporations: Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporationare planning to set up fuel outlets on vacant land owned by these RTCs.

In a new measure to generate commercial revenue for the RTCs, both BMTC and KSRTC are planning to set up petrol stations at their depots. The RTCs will also collect monthly rent from the companies for leasing out the space. KSRTC has already identified 46 such locations but BMTC is yet to identify them.

KSRTC MD V Anbu Kumar told BM, "We have floated a tender for settling up of fuel outlets at depots and we expect to generate good revenue for KSRTC. Some of the lands away from the city and highly valuable plots cannot be given away for construction purposes. After construction, it would become difficult to recover back the land, Hence, we are going with a 5-to 10-year lease for petrol bunks as an alternate solution. The tender is in the final stages.

"We are thinking of improving our cargo services and want to double them. We have identified clusters and we have been discussing them with our partners. I visited Andhra Pradesh to understand their model. But to implement the new model, we will need new vehicles. We have identified food clusters, automobile clusters, farmer clusters etc," he said.

As per KSRTC sources, the petrol bunks have been tendered for 46 locations and will be given to public sector oil companies. Annually, KSRTC plans on gaining Rs 1 lakh per location an average. Currently, KSRTC is gaining Rs 1 crore from its cargo services and hopes to multiply it to 10 crores this year. Additionally, KSRTC is also looking at advertisements outside bus stations outside Bengaluru.

BMTC on the other hand, has the plan in the nascent stage and is planning to work with an asset monetisation consultant. "We have called a tender for asset monetisation consultancy services and they will advise on better utilisation of BMTC's assets. We are also calling an expression of interest for oil marketing companies. After assigning the work, the asset monetisation consultant will identify the properties and will advise BMTC on possible revenue models and locations for fuel outlets. The consultancy will also estimate the revenue stream from this model," said a senior BMTC official.

BMTC floated the Expression of Interest a few days back and the eligible bidders will be decided in a month.

Bureaucrats face action over ugly spat

The State Government on Tuesday transferred without posting the two female bureaucrats warring in public.

IPS officer Roopa Moudgil (**bottom**) who was earlier serving as Managing Director of Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation has been replaced by IAS officer Bharathi D. On the other hand, Rohini Sindhuri (**top**) has been transferred without posting from her role as Commissioner of Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment Department.

Surprisingly, Roopa's husband Munish Moudgil has also been transferred from being Commissioner for Survey Settlement and Land Records to Principal Secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR).

Sources said that the public spat between the two women bureaucrats had put the government in a tight spot. The opposition parties were trying to make it a political issue by targeting the government saying that it was in such a helpless situation that it could not control officials.

Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai on Tuesday had publicly warned both the officials of action as well. During Monday's cabinet meeting, many ministers had expressed displeasure over the turn of events and had demanded the CM to take immediate action.

BMB

Media gag

The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) has asked the officers to not go to the media or share anything on social media against each other. Under Secretary James Tarakan issued notices and warned them against violating rules.

"In spite of having a forum to file your objections and complaints, you have gone to the media causing severe embarrassment and bringing disrepute to the government. As per rules, one can approach the media only regarding serving duties and to give information on government projects. The statements should have been avoided," it further read.

Leopard attack issue raised in assembly

The Karnataka legislature during the assembly session on Tuesday debated on the issue of increasing leopard attacks in the state.

JD(S) MLA from Srirangapatna constituency Ravindra Srikanthaiah, who raised the issue, stated that people in Mandya district are badly affected by leopard attacks.

Many have lost their lives due to leopard attacks. Leopards are taking shelter in sugarcane farms and while reaping sugarcane, they are attacking farmers. There are a large number of cases of injuries due to attacks by big cats, he stated.

Srikanthaiah added that the farmers are not able to find labourers as they are fearing being attacked.

"Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had assured that the government would prevent leopard attacks. But leopards are attacking farmers. In Mandya district alone, 410 cases of leopard attacks have been registered with authorities. No action is taken," he said.

Minister for Law JC Madhu Swamy, answering the question, explained that leopards are attacking as they have given birth to cubs. Leopards reside close to villages normally. A task force of 63 members has been formed for trapping and catching leopards.

"We have also earmarked funds for the purpose in the budget. Besides, those who have been attacked by leopards are given compensation. It is not possible to shoot leopards under the provisions of law. We will catch leopards and shift them to forests," he said. **IANS**

Under the pillar: Safe spot to dump garbage?

Garbage being dumped under metro pillars outside Central Mall in JP Nagar, creating eyesore and much inconvenience; citizens seek proper monitoring

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The garbage menace in Bengaluru doesn't seem to stop. Outside the Central Mall in JP Nagar, a huge amount of garbage is being dumped on an everyday basis and the authorities have neglected the spot. The residents of the area complained about the frequent garbage dumping menace to the authorities but no action has been taken yet.

They say it is the citizens themselves or the local civic body to be blamed for not keeping the city clean. The citizens are found dumping the garbage on roads while the civic body does not monitor proper collection of garbage.

While flexes and banners are banned, many people are still continuing to install them. Even sticking up posters on the walls of shops, trees, and pillars of metro or flyovers are forbidden, but near the JP Nagar the pillars are filled with advertisement posts.

Adiba S, a resident of the area, told Bangalore Mirror, "In other countries we can see the passages beneath the flyover well maintained with greenery and flowers. However, in Bengaluru most of the places under the flyovers are used for parking or dumping the waste from the nearby stores."

The spot under flyover in JP Nagar is used for dumping garbage. The pillar walls are filled with advertisement posters

In commercial areas it is even worse. In JP Nagar, there are many stores and street vendors around that are dumping all the waste here, she added.

The residents even complained of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) not carrying out strict enforcement to keep the spots clean.

> **"In the nights people dump garbage on the roads or on the median near JP Nagar and Tilak Nagar. Proper monitoring is needed**
> – Raksha, a resident

"Marshals had been assigned in some of black spots to ensure that the people who come to dump garbage on roads or vacant spots are fined. But we hardly see them in Jayanagar. In places around Tilak Nagar and JP Nagar, marshals need to be appointed to ensure that the waste is not thrown on the roads causing inconvenience to the commuters and local residents," she explained.

In Swachh Survekshan ranking in 2022, Bengaluru had secured 43rd position due to mounds of garbage on the roads and improper collection of waste.

"In the nights people come and leave all the garbage on the road or on the median near JP Nagar and Tilak Nagar. It is difficult for people to even walk through the stretch as it would be stinking in the nights. There needs to be proper monitoring to ensure it's not repeated," said Raksha, another resident.

100 saplings damaged for infra

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We had put in a lot of effort to carry out the plantation across that stretch. We have planted over 500 plants in localities like Jayanagar, Basa-vanagudi and Bana-shankari. Not only do we plant, but we ensure maintenance by watering and also keep a close watch so that the plants don't catch fungal infections. Upon seeing our work, the residents of Shobha valley view apartments called us to carry out planting. But all our efforts have gone down the drain with the BBMP damaging all the plants," said Dr Manya Nagraj, founder, Hasiruratha.

Subsequently, the members of the group reached out to the BBMP to inquire but they were told that it was done for development works. They asked the civic body to return the missing tree guards so that they could be reused, but there was no response from the officials. "BBMP officials gave us the contractors' number to enquire about the tree guards but he has not been responding to our calls. Over Rs 50,000 was spent for the tree guards. We got the saplings free from the BBMP nursery; they had grown to about 8-10 feet tall. When residents pass by, they would feel happy seeing the plants grow. But now it is all gone," said Narasimha Bhat K, a member from Hasiruratha. The volunteers have requested the BBMP to leave some space so they can carry out plantations again in the stretch. "We are asking the civic body to leave a 3x3 feet gap every 15 feet or so along the Vrishabhavathi river from Ganesha temple towards V Legacy on Patel Chinnappa Road. If BBMP approves, we can beautify the space again and reduce concretisation."

More power to Indian women truck drivers

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To empower women truck drivers and support them in finding employment opportunities overseas, Baton Transport on Tuesday announced their corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative in partnership with the Vega Group, India. The selected women drivers are expected to get Rs 1.50 lakh each per month. As a pilot programme, around 20 women drivers are to be selected.

As part of their focus on gender equality, Baton Transport A/S Hungary is focused on increasing gender diversity in the trucking industry and has identified training and recruiting of women drivers as their key focus.

They propose to train and develop identified women drivers in India through NGOs, and at the next level provide selected women drivers with jobs in Hungary and neighbouring countries in their fleet operations.

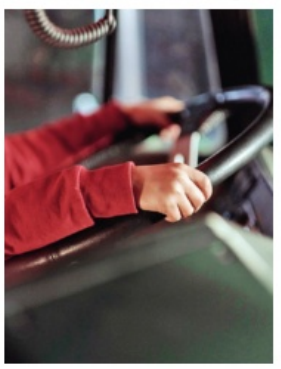
The NGOs and forums that Baton Transport and Bányai & Partners Consulting are in discussion with for the training, skill and career development of the women drivers, include Azad Foundation, Taxshe, a Bengaluru-based NGO, working to help provide safe mobility solutions for women and kids and Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (WICCI).

According to Claus Normann Hansen, CEO of Baton Transport, women represent a far lesser percentage of the total number of truck drivers globally. "We need to highlight the importance of increasing diversity in the trucking industry and to focus on training, recruiting and skilling female truck drivers.

To this effect, we at Baton Transport have chosen to focus on UN SDG 5 on gender equality and India is an important market for us," she said.

> **"Currently, there is a very small community of women drivers, making their living by driving tax, buses**
> – Poornesh MH

The vision is also to support and empower the women to build better lives for themselves by opening up opportunities, she added. Vega Group is pleased to partner with Baton Transport to empower and support women drivers in India and help them get better employment opportunities.



"This association will also help support the work done by the Directorate of Women & Child Development, Government of Karnataka, toward helping women from economically backward societies to develop and enhance their skills and get employment both within the country and overseas," said Poornesh MH, director, Vega Group, India. Currently, there is a very small community of women drivers, making their living by driving taxis, semi-trailer trucks and buses. The association, on a step-by-step approach, plans to increase the impact on women drivers of Karnataka, he explained.

"Azad set out to address the structural barriers that prevented women from joining the workforce, including mobility restrictions, violence at home and in public places and the burden of unpaid care work," said Meenu Vadera, founder, Azad Foundation and Sakha Consulting Wings.

Shifty till cows come home

Animal Husbandry & Vet Services must vaccinate stray cattle for lumpy skin disease instead of shifting responsibility to BBMP, say activists

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

There are said to be approximately 1,253 stray cattle roaming on the streets in the city; inset: a bull affected by lumpy skin disease

Animal activists are up in arms against Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AHVS) for not taking measures to vaccinate stray animals with Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Bengaluru. They demand that the AHVS engage manpower and equipment to vaccinate 1,253 stray cattle roaming on the streets in the city.

The activists have criticised AHVS authorities for shifting the responsibility of vaccinating the stray cattle to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). They blamed the AHVS for giving importance to cattle at goshalas and completely ignoring the stray cattle.

"The AHVS must recruit manpower and procure the equipment needed for vaccination of stray cattle. The Union Department of Animal Husbandry Joint Director made it clear that care should be taken to report any unusual sickness of other animals to the nearest veterinary hospital/dispensary. The BBMP has no AHVS. It is the responsibility of the State AHVS authorities to vaccinate stray cattle suffering with Lumpy Skin Disease," said Arun Prasad, an animal activist.

On Sunday, Action for Animal Justice, wrote a letter to the Commissioner of AHVS on the outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease in Bengaluru. It stated that many cattle had already died of the disease. The letter appealed to the Commissioner to take up vaccination of stray cattle in the city on an emergency basis.

"The AVHS or BBMP Animal Husbandry Department should not differentiate when it comes to vaccination for Lumpy Skin Disease. Who will treat stray cattle suffering from the Lumpy Skin Disease if the State AVHS focuses only on cattle at goshalas?" asked Nevina Kamath, a member of Earth Quotient.

Demanding the State AVHS authorities take measures to vaccinate stray cattle in the city, Nagarajan AS, a member of Jayanagar Canine Squad, said that he had come across two stray cattle suffering with Lumpy Skin Disease at two locations of Jayanagar recently. "We tried to save one of the stray cattle suffering from Lumpy Skin Disease but in vain. We called a veterinary doctor to treat the stray cattle but it was too late," said Nagarajan.

When informed, AVHS Deputy Director Dr Nagaraj said the stray cattle are the responsibility of the BBMP which is a local body of Bengaluru. "We have taken measures to contain the LSD among the cattle in Bangalore Rural and Kolar. We do not have the manpower to catch the stray cattle wandering on the city roads. If the BBMP brings such cattle, we will provide vaccination for them," said Dr Nagaraj.

> **"Who will treat stray cattle suffering from the Lumpy Skin Disease if the State AVHS focuses only on cattle at goshalas?"**
> –Nevina Kamath, Earth Quotient

Meanwhile, BBMP Animal Husbandry Joint Director Dr Ravi Kumar said that it would be tough for the BBMP staff to catch stray cattle. "We availed the services of Bannerghatta Biological Park to give anesthesia to stray cattle. I think the State AVHS authorities have to write a letter to the Bannerghatta Biological Park authorities for an anesthesia gun to sedate the cattle. We are ready to join hands with the State AVHS to vaccinate stray cattle in the city," said Dr Ravi Kumar.

Will the authorities concerned (State AVHS or BBMP) take the initiative to avail the expertise of Bannerghatta Biological Park to sedate stray cattle and vaccinate cattle to stop spread of LSD?

The animal activists have no option but to wait and watch.

HC disposes plea seeking panic button in all phones

The Karnataka government has informed the High Court it has introduced the 'Suraksha' app and in times of emergency the public can either use this app or call the 112 emergency number.

A public interest litigation by NT Arun Kumar from Nagadevanahalli in Bengaluru had sought directions for pre-installed panic buttons in mobile phones.

The division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Ashok S Kinagri appreciated the government's efforts in developing the Suraksha App and disposed of the petition.

The HC said that it cannot direct the manufacturers to pre-install panic buttons in all mobile phones as it is likely to create a situation where unscrupulous elements, minors and children may unnecessarily use the panic button depriving help to those really in an emergency.

The Police Department in its affidavit in response to the PIL stated that the app has been developed in addition to the emergency care number 112 that already exists. The app has an SOS button which even allows for recording a 10-second video. The panic button on it allows the person to reach out to friends, relatives and the police. The app is also disabled-friendly and allows the police to track it through GPS.

The Emergency Response Support System was also upgraded and in 2021, the number of response lines on these were increased from three to six. Currently, the system is able to handle 118 calls at a time.

The HC said that it was not possible to expect any system to work at 100 per cent efficiency. It directed the authorities to popularise the use of the Suraksha app and take measures to publicise its uses to the public. **PTI**

Stafford Cup: City's glamour event set for kick-off

The Stafford Challenge Cup, 'blue riband of soccer in the South', kicks off once again at the KSFA Stadium here from February 23, with the grand final slated for March 6.

The oldest all-India knockout tournament of south India instituted and presented by the Staffordshire Regiment way back in 1938, has had a truncated journey. It has not been organised on a regular basis for various reasons. It was last organised way back in 1993. Local giants Indian Telephone Industries, led by goalkeeper Francis Ignatius, had eventually won the cup after failed attempts earlier defeating Union Bank of India, Mumbai, 2-1 in the final. Unfortunately, Francis is no more amidst us.

With the All India Football Federation deciding to revive traditional tournaments to provide a platform for clubs and players to showcase their talent, the Karnataka State Football Association got cracking and has managed to put together a total of 15 teams - nine outstation and six local - which will battle it out on a league basis initially with the four group winners advancing to the semi-finals with the winner of those two clashes vying for honours.

All the matches will be held at the KSFA Stadium (file photo)

On the opening day, Gokulam FC (Kerala) take on local challengers Roots FC in Group B while the familiar Goan side Dempo SC meet Madras Engineer Group & Centre, Bengaluru in Group A.

While Group A, C and D have four teams each, Group B has three teams.

The presence of the once-popular teams like Dempo SC should warm the hearts of the football fans and bring back memories of the epic battles that were fought in the past. Kenkre FC, Delhi FC and ARA FC are no newcomers to Bengaluru. League teams like Gokulam FC (Kerala) Chennaiyan FC (Chennai) and Sreenidhi Deccan FC (Hyderabad) are bound to step up the scales. But going by recent performances in the local Super Division League, Bengaluru teams are expected to ensure that it is 'no walk in the park' for any of the others in the fray.

The teams have had sufficient time to prepare for this traditional event. **—SS Shreekumar**

A look at the groups

Group A: FC Bengaluru United, MEG & Centre (both Bengaluru), Dempo SC (Goa), FC Deccan (Hyderabad).
Group B: Roots FC, ASC Centre (both Bengaluru), Gokulam FC (Kerala).
Group C: Bengaluru FC (Bengaluru), Kenkre FC (Mumbai), Sreenidhi Deccan FC (Hyderabad), Delhi FC (Delhi).
Group D: Kickstart FC (Bengaluru), Chennaiyan FC (Chennai), Ahmedabad Racquet Academy FC (Ahmedabad), Kerala United FC (Kerala).

Staff crunch at KSPCB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the way it has been functioning. They said the norms and procedures laid down by the CPCB to prevent any form of pollution are not being adhered to.

"The amount of environmental damage caused and not prevented is directly related to the number of staff available. A shortage of more than 50% of scientific and technical staff highlights KSPCB's callousness and lack of seriousness towards tackling pollution in the city and state. Norms and procedures laid down by the CPCB to prevent any form of pollution are not being adhered to. For instance, while CPCB rules mention sludge testing of ETPs installed by the industries every three months, the check is not being done," said solid waste management expert V Ramprasad.

When BM reached out to KSPCB, officials said the situation is the same across all the state pollution control boards (SPCB) in the country.

"It is the same everywhere. However, the state government has sanctioned some of the posts at KSPCB and recruitment is under process. While additional manpower will surely strengthen the board and its functionality, we are performing our duties even with a manpower shortage. Recruitment of staff in vacant posts is a dynamic process and 100% of the posts can never be filled," said Srinivasulu, member secretary, KSPCB.

"KSPCB can be on the right track and set an example for other SPCBs. We understand that 100% positions cannot be filled but it should function with at least 80% staff strength," added Ramprasad.

The audit report which was published in August 2021 recommended that the SPCB hire 56 % of the total sanctioned posts lying vacant, adding that the state government should grant necessary approvals for the recruitment of regular/permanent staff required at the board.

Environmentalists pointed out that equitable allocation of technical and scientific staff plays an important role in keeping pollution levels under check through constant monitoring.

	Sanctioned	In place	Vacancy	Rate
Total posts	682	297	385	56.4%
Scientific & Technical	411	195	216	52.5%
Administrative	271	102	169	62.3%

City based lake activist Raghavendra B Pachhapur said the KSPCB is presently monitoring 175 lakes across Karnataka. "However, more waterbodies can be brought under its ambit. Moreover, currently, less than half of the lakes in Bengaluru (100) are monitored by the board. Citizens' complaints about water pollution are attended to only after multiple follow-ups. We have been noticing delays in publishing of water quality analysis reports on KSPCB's website too."

Need for reform

Experts are of the view that while the issue of human resource shortage has to be addressed fast, KSPCB needs major reform to ensure officials perform their duties without any political interference.

"KSPCB's role is regulatory; the board is supposed to take action against polluters and penalise them. However, the existing staff are also hand in glove with the polluters. Our study showed treated water supplied to the city outskirts has high heavy metal content. This is because the treatment plants are either not up to the mark or are not maintained well. The board needs strong internal reform to eliminate any political interference. We need to make the regional environmental officers accountable for any form of pollution," said Dr TV Ramachandra, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

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I . Abdul Rahim Abdul Rahman, R/a No.2, Block F 1st Crs EWS Quarters, Vinobhanagar, Kadugondanahailli ,Blgr-45.I have changed my name to ABDUL RAHEEM .Vide affidavit dated as :15-2-2023 Sworn before Notary : B S Padama Prasad.

I Rigved Manoj Manoj S/O, Manoj Gopalapillai R/o Flat No 403 Hani Homes 2nd Cross St, 2nd Stage, Brigade Metropolis, Garudachar Palya, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru, 560048 have changed my name to Rigved Manoj

I, SOPHIE, C/o. R J Devadass, R/at No.28 Cement Line Austintown, Bengaluru-560047, have changed my name to SOPHIE CRENA, vide affidavit dt:21.02.2023 before Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

I .Mohammed Saad S/o T S Salim Basha, R/a No.252, 4th cross near madina Masjid, Vinobhanagar, K G Halli ,Blgr-45.I have changed my name to T S MUHAMMAD SAAD .Vide affidavit dated as : 18-2-2023 Sworn before Notary : B S Padama Prasad.

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I Renu R W/O, Naresh P Kukreja R/o 10/1 Kukreja House 4th Floor Kumara Krupa Road Bengaluru -560001 have changed my name to Dipika N Kukreja for all purposes.

I, Nayaz pasha Riyaz S/o: Riyaz pasha R/o #11 3rd main Road 3rd cross Rahmath nagar RT nagar bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Nayaz Pasha for all purposes.

I, Pushpa Vivek Bollachitra W/o Vivek Subbaiah Bollachitra R/o 3804, Prestige Kew Gardens Apts, yemalur, B'luru- 560037 have changed My name to Pushpa S Prasad Affidavit Dt. 21/02/2023 Before Notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, ABDUL RAZAK resident of No.101/35, 7th Cross, 11th Main road, Begur Hobli, Srinivasa Layout, Hongasandra, Bengaluru-560068 have changed my name to VASEEM PASHA vide affidavit dated 21.02.2023 before notary V. Rjashekhara, B.lore.

I Vivek Shirsat S/O, Arun Shirsat R/o B205, Nydhile Residency, Gottigere, Bangalore have changed my name to Vivek Arun Shirsat

I, NOOR FATHIMA .A resident of No.101/35, 7th Cross, 11th Main road, Begur Hobli, Srinivasa Layout, Hongasandra, Bengaluru-560068 have changed my name to NOOR FATHIMA vide affidavit dated 21.02.2023 notary V. Rjashekhara, B.lore.

I, MANJUATH REVANKAR R/o. No.18/1, 4th Main Road, Maruthi Extension, Sriram puram, Bengaluru-21 have changed my name to MANJUNATH DIGAMBAR REVANKAR vide Affidavit dt. 20.02.2023 sworn before notary Mr. C Srinivas Bengaluru.

I, SHRADHA, aged about 28 years r/o flat no. N-2079, Republic of Whitefield, EPIP Zone, Whitefield, B-560066. have changed my name from SHRADHA to SHRADHA SRIVASTAVA. Sworn before advocate and notary J. Anand Kumar, at B'lore dt. 21/2/23.

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A doze of health

Why sleep is so important for your fitness

When we think of what makes athletes great, few of us would think that sleep might play an important role. But many of the world's best athletes say sleep is an essential part of their training routine and key in helping them to perform well.

Serena Williams, for example, strives to get eight hours of sleep each night. NBA star LeBron James aims for eight to ten hours per night, while NFL legend Tom Brady says he goes to bed early and gets at least nine hours of sleep.

It's no wonder, since sleep plays a key role in metabolism, the growth and repair of tissues (such as our muscles), and ensures memory, reaction time and decision making are all working optimally. All these processes impact sporting performance.

But it isn't just athletes whose athletic performance can benefit from proper sleep. Even amateur gym-goers can maximise the benefits of exercise for their fitness and health by getting enough good sleep each night.

Here are just some of the ways sleep benefits your fitness:

Aerobic fitness

Exercise is great for improving aerobic fitness. It improves both aerobic capacity (being able to run or cycle faster with a heavier load) and efficiency (meaning your body requires less oxygen to run or cycle at the same pace).

One contributing factor to improved aerobic fitness is the function of the body's mitochondria. Mitochondria are small structures within the cells of the muscles that are responsible for creating the energy the muscle requires during exercise.

Research shows that poor sleep (getting only four hours a night for five nights) can reduce the function of mitochondria in healthy participants. High-intensity interval training was shown to alleviate these impairments in the short-term (over a five-day period). But, it's currently unclear how these impairments would influence adaptations to exercise in the longer term, so it's best to get a good night's sleep if improving aerobic fitness is one of your goals.

Muscle growth

Sleep is also important if you're looking to build strength or muscle.

Muscle growth occurs when new proteins are added to the muscle structure – a process known as "muscle protein synthesis". This process is stimulated by exercise and food (specifically protein) intake, and can last at least 24 hours after a workout.

Research shows that even just a few nights of insufficient sleep reduces the muscle protein synthesis response to nutrient intake. This suggests that poor sleep may make it harder for the body to build muscle.

Anabolic hormones

Hormones act as chemical messengers that contribute to a range of functions throughout the body, such growth and development of tissues. Hormones which are involved with these building processes can be termed "anabolic" hormones.

Two anabolic hormones – testosterone and growth hormone, which are released during sleep – may also be important for recovery from and adaptation to exercise. These hormones have multiple roles in the body, and are linked to improved body composition (lower body fat and higher muscle mass). A higher amount of muscle mass and lower body fat can be beneficial for exercise and health.

When sleep is restricted to only five hours per night (similar to the amount of sleep many working adults get), testosterone levels are reduced in healthy young men. Sleep restriction of a similar duration also alters the release of growth hormone during sleep. While more research is needed, there's a potential that these hormones may play a role in mediating the relationship between sleep and fitness, due to their link to improved body composition.

Refuelling after exercise

Exercise often uses glucose (sugar) as a fuel source. Muscles store glucose from the foods we eat in the form of glycogen to meet the demands of exercise. Replenishing glycogen stores after exercise is a key part of the recovery process. It can take up to 24 hours to fully replenish stores, with the correct nutrient intake. The hormone insulin can be needed for muscles to absorb glucose in order to make glycogen.

Numerous studies show that insufficient sleep reduces the effectiveness of insulin. This could impact on the body's ability to replace glycogen stores, with one study revealing reduced muscle glycogen stores after a night of sleep deprivation.

Depleted glycogen stores can impair subsequent exercise performance in the short and long term, so it is important to ensure glycogen stores are replenished after exercise.

How to sleep well

Sleep is clearly important for your fitness, so here are some ways to ensure you get proper sleep each night:

Develop a consistent bedtime routine: do things before bedtime that help you relax and wind down – such as reading a book or listening to relaxing music. A hot shower or bath before bed can also be beneficial as the drop in body temperature afterwards can help you to fall asleep quicker.

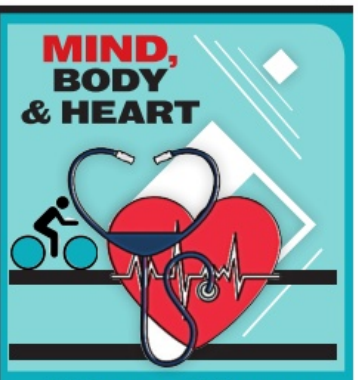
Create a good sleeping environment: exposure to light during the night can reduce sleep quality, so try to block out as much light as possible. Aim to keep the room cool, but not too cold. An environment that is too hot or too cold can disrupt sleep quality.

Be physically active during the day: research shows that physical activity is beneficial for sleep quality, so try to include some exercise or physical activity in your day.

Keep a consistent sleep schedule: this will help to regulate your sleep-wake cycle, which has been linked to improved sleep quality.

If you are trying to improve your fitness make sure you're getting enough good quality sleep – aim for at least seven to nine hours of sleep each night.

(By Emma Sweeney, Nottingham Trent University; Ian Walshe, Northumbria University,The Conversation)



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

Unfortunately, I've recently discovered that a good friend's husband is having an affair with someone at his work and I don't know what to do about it for the best. They have two children together and I always thought they had a solid marriage. I'm pretty sure my friend has no idea what her husband is up to. The thing is, I've been in a similar situation before when I thought my sister-in-law was having a thing with another man. I did end up telling my brother, all hell broke loose, and it turned out that it wasn't an affair and I'd got the wrong end of the stick. I obviously don't want to make that mistake again! However, I truly believe my friend's hubby is cheating as I know someone who works closely with them. What would you do in this situation?

COLEEN SAYS

You have to be very careful about things you hear through the grapevine. You've been burned once already. Yes, this guy might be flirting at work, but it doesn't mean he's having an affair. If I were you, I'd probably try to have a word with him and just tell him what you've heard. Something like, "I don't know if this is true but, if it is, I can't pretend I don't know about it. And if I know, then the chances are your wife will find out, so it's better coming from you if it is true".

It's a tricky situation because if you told your friend what you've heard, she could feel defensive and angry, and your friendship might not recover. Equally, if she finds out you knew and didn't tell her, again, your friendship might be over.

But in the latter case, you could explain you'd heard a rumour, but hadn't seen it with own eyes.

But I have a feeling that if you talk to him and it's true, he'll either come clean and tell his wife or end his affair.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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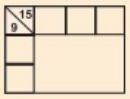
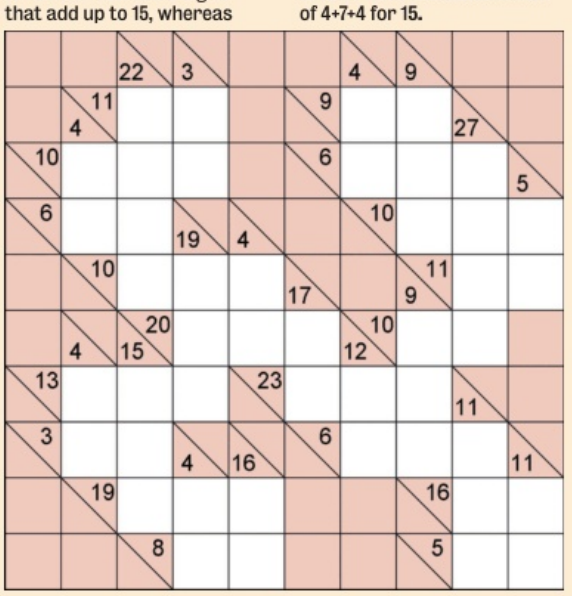
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

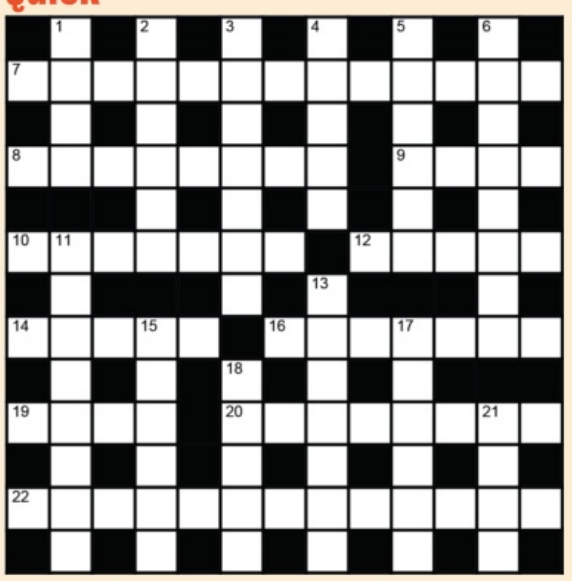


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Group of stars (13)
8 Terrifying (8)
9 Roman poet–"O div" anagram? (4)
10 Fluctuating (7)
12 Be suitable for; become (5)
14 Beach near Udupi (5)
16 Teasing, ribbing or making fun of (7)
19 Mother of Zeus (4)
20 Got back (8)
22 Late shehnai maestro from Varanasi (9,4)

DOWN

1 By ___ : by memory alone? (4)
2 Off track (6)
3 Spring back (7)
4 Armada (5)
5 Endeavoured (6)
6 Self-will (8)
11 Eight-legged creature (8)
13 A graph or a blueprint? (7)
15 Sacred songs (6)
17 Takes some liquid as food (6)
18 Question intensely (5)
21 E in QED. ? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS G

VFZ IHZBOZH WBK RKTQ KT VHJVF, KTV ZYZK BDTJV FUL IHZBO, ZGWZCV DE BQBRUKN TJV TP UV.

Linemaro

If I were a stop light, I'd turn red every time you passed by, so I could stare at you longer

Mindchow

Smooth seas don't make skilful sailors

Joke of the day

The man who invented Velcro died today. RIP

Loop

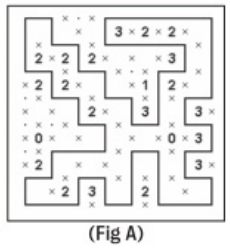
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

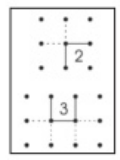
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

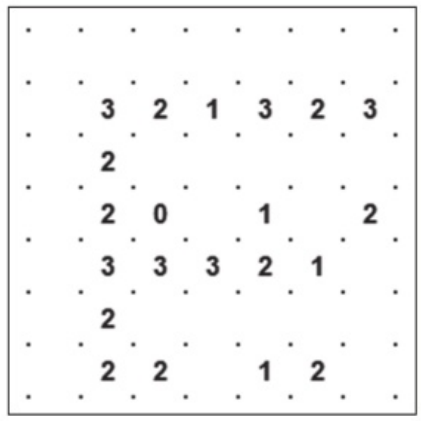
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



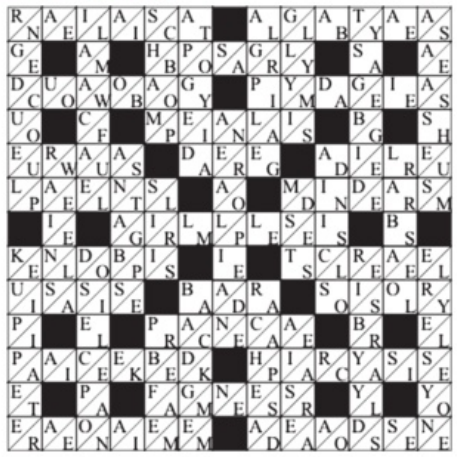
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



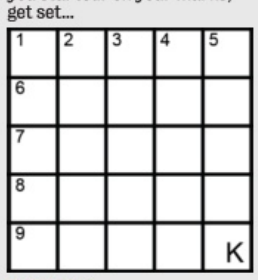
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

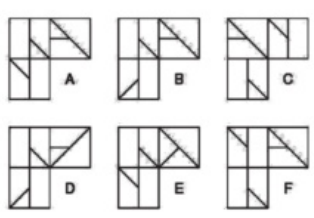
1 Roils; 6 Bap ma; 7 Tease; 8 A gait; 9 Hooks

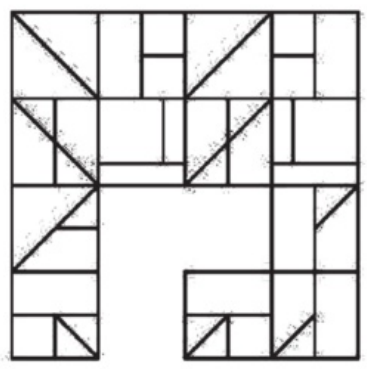
DOWN

1 Salts; 2 He Boa; 3 At Rio; 4 Amigo; 5 Spake

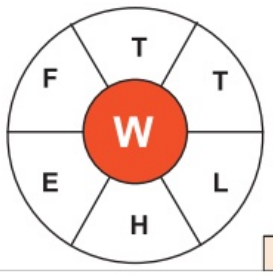
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing segment?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

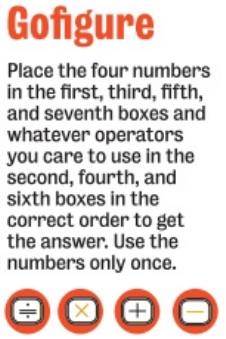
SudokuChallenge

		7			5	4		
	1		2			7	5	
	8	5		3				9
		9	3				7	
			4		7			
	6				9	8		
2				7		3	8	
	5	3			6		1	
		1	9			2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 13

2 3 6 7

Medium = 22

3 5 7 7

Hard = 9

2 8 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

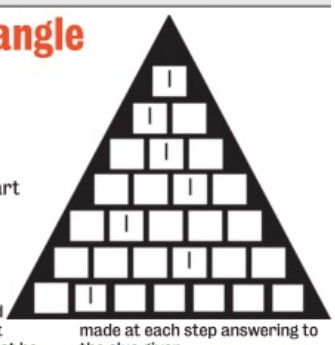
Differences: 1. Hat is larger. 2. Door is wider. 3. Man has more hair. 4. Base of lamp is smaller. 5. Back of chair is smaller. 6. Man is thinner.

Riddler

Maya's mother asked her to buy some stamps. The available stamps were 3 cents, 9 cents, 11 cents, 17 cents and 21 cents. Her mother asked her to buy eight each of three stamps and nine of each of the remaining two stamps. Unfortunately, Maya forgot which stamps she was supposed to buy eight and nine of. Luckily, her mother had given her $5, the exact amount required to buy the stamps. Which stamps did she buy?

Alpha triangle

1 Third vowel
2 Ego's partner?
3 Free (of)
4 Crosshatch
5 Requiem
6 More jittery
7 Move or draw apart



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

LIL, MY CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU COMES STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART!
I'M TOUCHED, HOWARD
THANK YOU VERY MU-
IT'S AN AORTIC VALVE!
www.creators.com
12/16

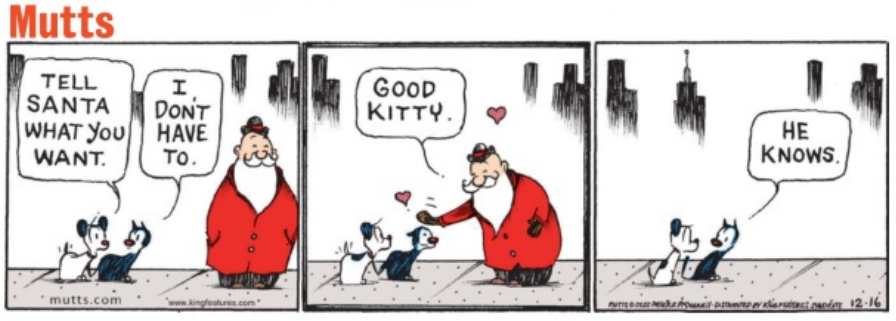
Hart of the city

THANKS FOR INVITING ME OVER, CHARLOTTE, BUT SHOVELING...IS NOT FUN.
IT IS WHEN YOU'RE MAKING FAT STACKS!
FAT STACKS OF WHAT? SNOW?
MONEY, DEAN! MONEY!!!

Crankshaft

YOU'RE KIDDING! OUR WEATHERMAN GUS TRACKER JUST QUIT!?
YEAH... I GUESS THAT BEING SHORT-STAFFED IS JUST A SIGN OF THE TIMES.
CHANNEL 1
IF IT IS... THE TIMES REALLY STINK!
BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books
12-13

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be blessed by the moon. You may get a high position at work due to your hard work. You may also meet some influential person who will give you good direction to improve your life. You will manage your domestic issues very easily, which may boost harmony in the family.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be happy. Things may be better somehow. You may plan to visit some spiritual place as it will give you inner strength. You may also donate some money to charity or help needy people. You may expect some overseas travel in terms of education or work. Couples may find their match suitable. Singles are likely to find a soulmate.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel unhappy or dull. Remember to not let it affect your way of working. There may be some delays in projects that are to be completed. It may affect your prestige in professional and domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of new work.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel positive vibrations all around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in your partnership. You may expect long distance travel as well. You will strike a faith with your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may perform your best at the office. You may develop good bonding with your boss. You may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You may get good incentives for your work too. Disputes with siblings may be resolved now. Job seekers may find new work.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today your children's education can make you busy and you may plan for their higher studies. Couples may hear good news in terms of children. You may want to update yourself and make some plans for higher studies or for getting promotions in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate. Those in jobs related to education, consultants, and banking will do better.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel dissatisfied. You may not be able to handle your responsibilities. Your investments may bring some losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature on them. Your elders' health can make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house, but it is advised to postpone renovation plans for a while.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be busy at work. Your network may be increased, and with the help of that, you are likely to get a big order. You are likely to start innovations in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase it in the near future. Your emotional relationship with your spouse will be improved.

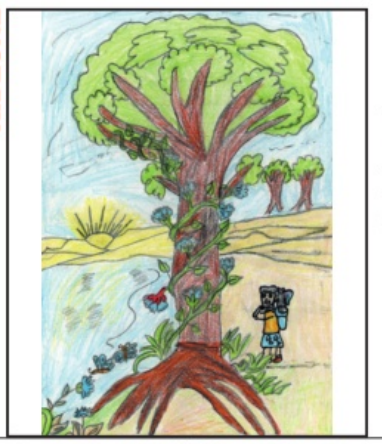
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be busy with your family. You may feel happy and will enjoy it with family or friends. You can expect some new sources of income, which may boost your financial health. You may have control over your expenditure on worthless items. You may buy some worthwhile things, which may improve your social status.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you can try to improve your patience. Your focus may come back. It may help you to achieve your goals. You may perform well in terms of business and domestic life. There may be some balance between expenditures and savings. It will boost your savings.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today some dissatisfaction may creep into your mind. You may feel lazy and dull. It affects your current speed at a project or work in terms of delay. Lovebirds are advised to avoid any important decision in terms of marriage. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of interviews.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today your internal power can make you happy. You may get short gains in terms of investments. You can improve your relationship with your boss. You may see some promotions. Your prestige in society may be increased. You can also expect some work-related trips.

KIDZONE



Vinod Kumar H, 13 Years, Government School

N Harivittal, 9 Years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 48÷6+⅔×56+¾
= 8+¹²⁄₄+1
= 8+16+1
= 24+1
= 25

BULL'S EYE
flew, TWELFTH, welt, whet

RIDDLER
Eight of the 11 cent, 17 cent and 21 cent stamps and nine of the 3 cent and 9 cent stamps.

FAST FIVE

S	H	O	O	K
T	A	I	G	A
S	E	T	A	E
A	B	A	M	P
L	O	R	I	S

STRIKE OUT

R	E	L	I	C	T	A	G	A	T	E	S
E	A	H	O	A	G	Y	A	A			
C	O	W	B	O	Y	I	M	A	G	E	S
O	F	P	E	A	L	S	G	H			
U	R	U	S	D	E	D	E	L	E		
P	E	L	T	S	O	M	I	D	A	S	
I	A	I	M	L	E	S	S	B			
K	N	O	B	S	I	S	C	R	E	E	
I	S	I	S	B	A	A	O	I	L	Y	
P	L	R	A	N	C	E	B	E			
P	A	C	K	E	D	H	A	R	A	S	S
E	A	A	G	N	E	S	L	O			
R	E	N	A	M	E	D	E	A	D	E	N

QUICK

R	A	R	F	S	V						
C	O	N	S	T	E	L	L	A	T	I	O	N
T	T	B	E	R	L						
F	E	A	R	S	O	M	E	O	V	I	D
		A	U	T							
V	A	R	Y	I	N	G	B	E	F	I	T
		R		D			O				
M	A	L	P	E	K	I	D	D	I	N	G
C	S	G	A	R							
R	H	E	A	R	E	G	A	I	N	E	D
N		L	I	R	N	R					
B	I	S	M	I	L	L	A	H	K	H	A	N
D	S	L	M	S	T						

MENSA PUZZLE
The dreamer can know no truth, not even about his dream, except by awaking out of it.

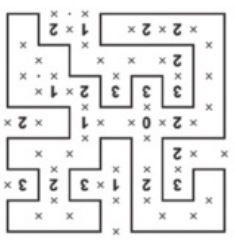
QUOTE UNCODE
F: so that the first column is a mirror image of the third column and the second column is a mirror image of the fourth column.

SUDOKU

9	2	7	6	1	5	4	3	8
3	1	4	2	9	8	7	5	6
6	8	5	7	3	4	1	2	9
5	4	9	3	8	2	6	7	1
1	3	8	4	6	7	5	9	2
7	6	2	1	5	9	8	4	3
2	9	6	5	7	1	3	8	4
4	5	3	8	2	6	9	1	7
8	7	1	9	4	3	2	6	5

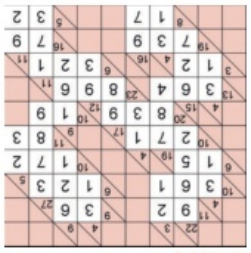
ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, Id, Rid, Grid, Dirge, Edgier, Diverge.

LOOP



GO FIGURE
Easy
3 × 6 + 2 − 7 = 13
Medium
7 + 7 + 5 + 3 = 22
Hard
7 + 8 − 8 + 2 = 9

KAKURO



Volume No 15, Issue No 173 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Barefoot and fancy
Actor Ram Charan, who jetted off to the US for Oscars from Hyderabad on Tuesday, was the cynosure of all eyes at the airport for a different reason – the actor was seen walking barefoot

Name change for good luck

Actress Urvashi is in town to promote her second Kannada film

Urvashi Roy aka Urvashi Jayan, who plays a key role in the forthcoming Kannada movie South Indian Hero, was in the city recently to promote her film. Urvashi Roy changed her name to Urvashi Jayan as per an astrologer's advice six months ago. Urvashi, hails from New Delhi, and this is her second Kannada film.

Her maiden Kannada movie is Savithri in which she is paired with Vijaya Raghavendra.

"My maiden movie is yet to be released and the preparations are on to release it shortly. South Indian Hero is my second Kannada movie. A major portion of the South Indian Hero is about how the lead actor happened to act in films. I play the female lead. In the movie, I come to Karnataka along with the hero and fall in love with him," said Urvashi Jayan.

> **My parents are my inspiration for a passion towards South Indian films**

She hails from a business family and wants to enter into movie production in future. "My parents used to watch a number of South Indian movies. My parents are my inspiration to have a passion towards South Indian movies. I have already acted in a Telugu movie Grey. I played a journalist in that movie," she said.

Elaborating on her maiden Kannada movie Savithri, she said that she plays a real estate businesswoman. "I play the role of a businesswoman with a kid. My role in the movie conveys a message to working women, especially those obsessed with business, on the importance of spending quality time with family members," she said.

—Y Maheshwara Reddy

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Ode to mother

Director-cum-actor Prem aka Jogi Prem is known for singing songs about the importance of one's mother in their life. He has sung two such songs for the movies Excuse Me and Jogi, which became popular. Now, Prem has sung a song for the movie Parimala D'Souza.

The lyrics – Amma emba hesare aatmabhala – were written by K Kalyan while Christopher Joseph composed music for it. The song was released by K Kalyan at Renukamba Preview Theater recently.

"The director informed me about the need to write this lyric without any delay. Prem has sung this song well and Christopher has scored lilting music," said Kalayan. Senior actress Bhavya plays a mother in this movie. "I accepted to act in this movie because of its script which is very interesting," said Bhavya.

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